

# **GREMPA: a useful initiative for cooperation in almond research**

**Rafel Socias i Company**

**Unidad de Hortofruticultura  
CITA de Aragón  
Zaragoza**

Paco Vargas in Murcia showed  
the positive results of GREMPA

but every history has a beginning  
not many people may recall...

M. Jacques Souty,  
Chargé de Mission,  
La Grande Ferrade,  
INRA, Bordeaux



Monsieur Jacques SOUTY n'est plus

*De même, dès les années 1950, M SOUTY, sensible à la décadence du verger d'Amandiers en France établissait les bases d'un programme de recherche concernant cette espèce*

# Meeting on horticultural production and marketing in the Mediterranean Basin (Athens, February 1970):

- Increase of almond consumption
- Low productivity
- New French cultivars
- New growing techniques (mechanical harvesting)

A meeting of OECD  
experts on cooperation  
in agricultural teaching  
and technical research  
IAMZ (Zaragoza, May 1971).



Launching of a working group on almond  
breeding, both on cultivars and rootstocks.

Course IAMZ. Almond network by J. Souty.

The main reason for launching this proposal was the low productivity of the Mediterranean almond orchards, most of them on non-irrigated and poor soils, unlike the irrigated and fertile Californian orchards.



The objectives suggested for the working group were:

1.- To facilitate cooperative research work to solve complex problems, difficult for a single country to tackle.

2.- To harmonise research projects through knowledge of the work carried out in other centres, to standardise working techniques and to adopt common reference controls, etc.

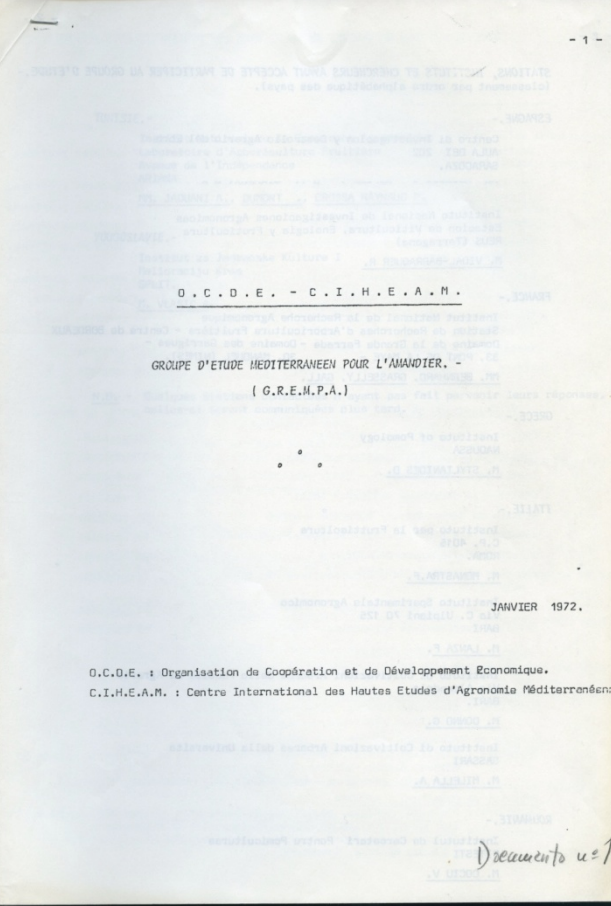
3.- To propose a distribution of tasks according to objectives, available resources in each centre, environmental conditions, etc.

4.- To exploit the results of each group to benefit participants as a whole.

The preliminary activities started immediately. Provisional secretariat established in July 1971 at the Station de Recherches d'Arboriculture Fruitière de la Grande Ferrade (INRA, Bordeaux, France).

Survey to the centres possibly interested in this initiative, in Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Romania, Tunisia, Turkey and Iran. The results of the survey were published in January 1972





O . C . D . E . - C . I . H . E . A . M .

GROUPE D'ETUDE MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'AMANDIER, -  
( G . R . E . M . P . A . )

JANVIER 1972.

- 1.- Research on plant material, such as collections of local and foreign cultivars, breeding by crosses, etc.
- 2.- Works on rootstock selection.
- 3.- Physiological studies related with breeding.

## Spain:

INIA CRIDA 03 – Estación Experimental de Aula Dei, Zaragoza, with A.J. Felipe, J. Herrero and M.C. Tabuenca.

INIA CRIDA 04 (Estación de Viticultura, Enología y Fruticultura of Reus), with R. Vidal-Barrera.

INIA CRIDA 08 (Extremadura), with B. Ramos.

## France:

INRA (Station de Recherches d'Arboriculture Fruitière de La Grande Ferrade, Bordeaux, with the joined farm of Manduel, Nîmes), with R. Bernhard, C. Grasselly and H. Gall.

## Greece:

Institute of Pomology, Naoussa, with D. Stylianides.

## Italy:

Instituto Sperimentale per la Frutticoltura (Roma), with F. Monastra.

Istituto Sperimentale Agronomico (Bari), with F. Lanza.

Istituto di Coltivazione Arboree (Università de Bari), with G. Donno.

Istituto di Coltivazione Arboree (Università de Sassari), with A. Milella.

## Romania:

Institutul de Cercetari, Pitești, with V. Cociu

## Tunisia:

INRAT – Laboratoire d'Arboriculture Fruitière (Ariana), with A. Jaouani and P. Crossa-Raynaud.

## Yugoslavia:

Institut zu Jadranske Culture (Split), with A. Vlasić.

## ORIGINE DU GROUPE.

C'est au cours de la réunion d'Experts sur la Coopération dans l'Enseignement et la Recherche Technique Méditerranéenne organisée par l'I.C.T.E.F. avec la participation de C.I.F.I.P.A.A., tenue à SARAGOSSE en mai 1971, que fut décidée successivement la constitution et la mise en oeuvre d'un Groupe de Travail International qui avait à se préoccuper des problèmes de l'amélioration génétique de l'Amandier (variétés et porte-greffes).

L'animation de ce Groupe est initialement confiée à M. J. HERRERO (Station d'ALBA (BC) à SARAGOSSE) et à BERNARD (Station de LA GRANDE FORCADE, Pont de la Maye près BESOZEAU).

## ENTOURIS DES TRAVAUX DE RECHERCHES SUR L'AMANDIER.

La culture de l'Amandier intéresse l'ensemble des pays du Bassin Méditerranéen, mais la production de coque (50 à 60.000 tonnes approximativement) ne saurait suffire pour satisfaire les besoins de la consommation européenne (évaluation de l'ordre de 100.000 tonnes). Ce sont les États-Unis qui contribuent principalement à combler le déficit.

Dans le climat méditerranéen, l'Amandier peut cependant trouver des conditions favorables à son développement mais, très souvent abandonné à lui-même dans les terrains les plus ingrats, sans soins particuliers, il ne laisse qu'un feuillage irrégulier, très défectueux ; pour ces raisons, sa culture a régressé au cours des dernières décades.

Certains faits se constatent néanmoins depuis quelques années :

- l'augmentation mondiale incessante de la consommation ;
- la progression constante depuis 20 ans des cours internationaux ;
- les premiers résultats d'une amélioration variétale (génétique et sanitaire) obtenus par divers chercheurs, notamment en France ;
- la mise au point de techniques de culture plus rationnelles (récolte mécanique).

Ces faits ont attiré l'attention des Producteurs, et bien que l'on assiste actuellement à un renouveau de cette culture,

des efforts concertés méritent donc d'être entrepris sans retard pour mettre à la disposition des Producteurs méditerranéens du Bassin Méditerranéen le matériel végétal sélectionné devant assurer une production capable de subvenir aux besoins de marché européen dans des conditions de qualité et de rentabilité concurrentielles.

Document 1 sur 2

# All this information facilitated the proposal of a working programme

INSTITUT AGRONOMIQUE MEDITERRANEEN

SARAGOSSE. ESPAGNE.

NOTE RELATIVE AU

GROUPE D'ETUDE MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'AMANDIER (G.R.E.M.P.A.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Pont de la Maye, le 7 mai 1973

Jacques SOUTY, Chargé de Mission INRA  
(France)

The consensuated coordination of all participants was necessary.

The Manduel farm (near Nîmes, France) was suggested for the first meeting.

Launching programme:

1.- Standardisation of the methods for establishing and evaluating the cultivar collections.

2.- Prospecting among local populations of interesting genotypes for their specific traits (late bloom, kernel quality, resistance to *Monilia*, leaf-hole, frost...).

3.- Establishment of botanical collections of wild species of the subgenus *Amygdalus* in a small number of locations, but available to all participants.

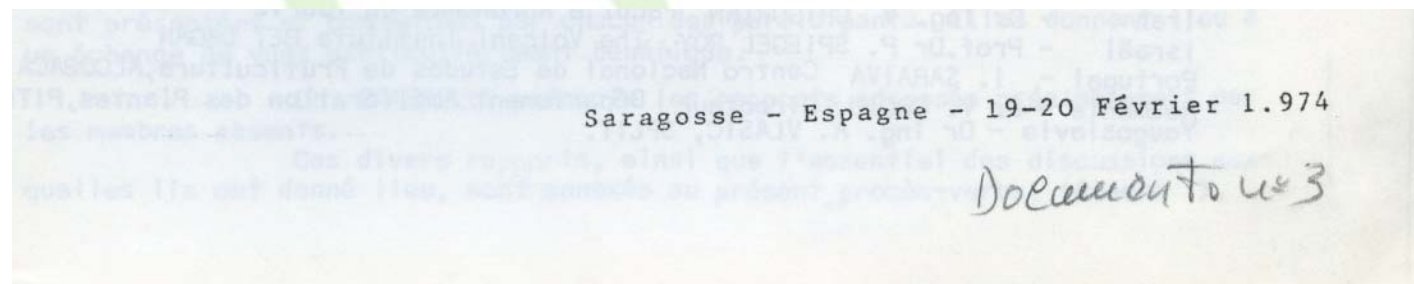
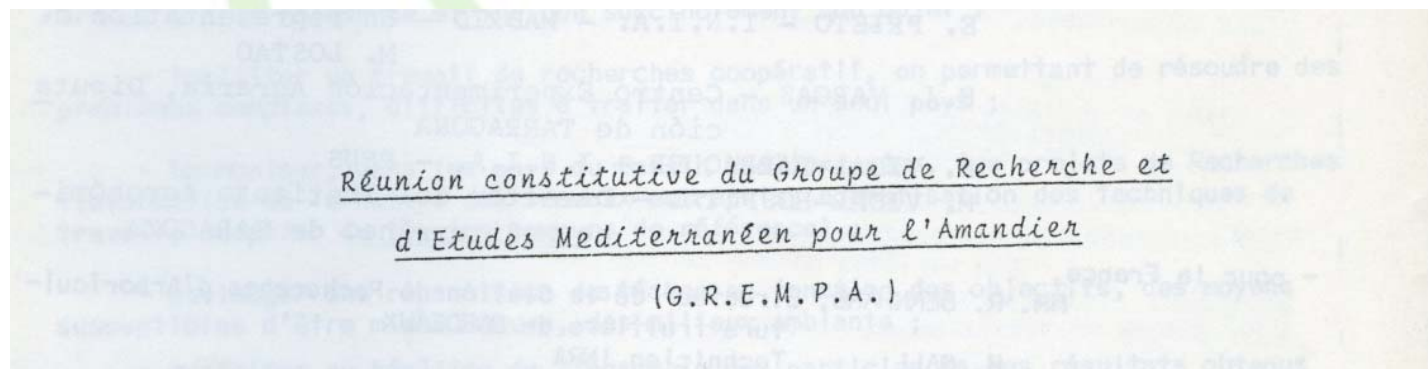
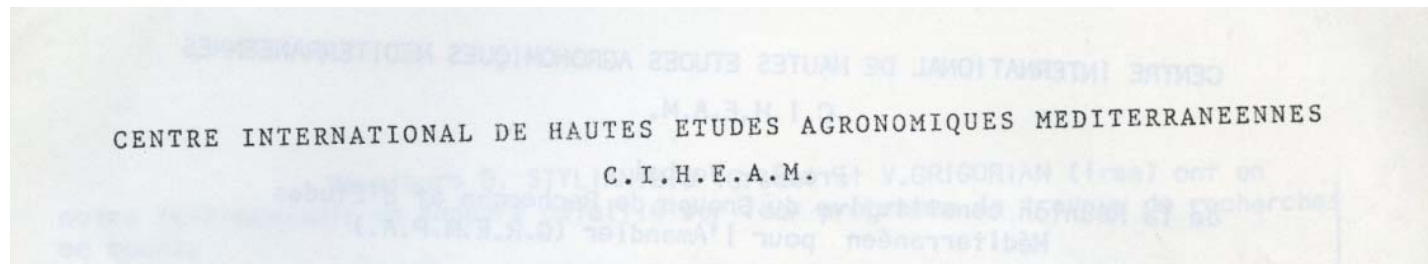
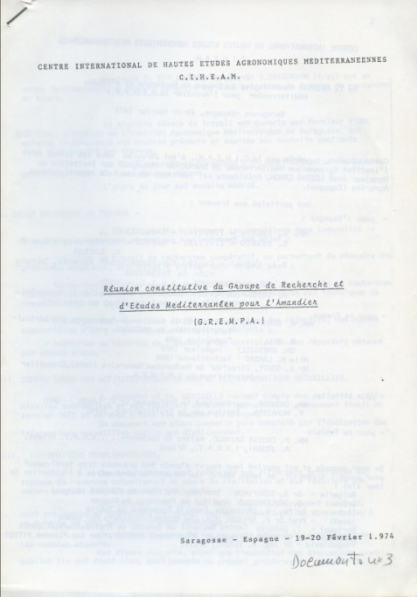
4.- Exchange of parental genotypes.

5.- Study of the possibilities of obtaining  $F_1$  cultivars vigorous enough to establish seedling orchards without grafting, mainly for arid regions.

6.- The complex problem of drought resistance, both in the rootstocks and in the cultivars, seeking practical selection methods for adaptation to drought.

7.- The search for genotypes with progeny showing better resistance to nematodes or to saline conditions.

# First GREMPA meeting





J. Souty, promoter of GREMPA, chaired the meeting. Unfortunately, he died several months later, on 13 October 1974.

Four countries present: France, Italy, Spain and Tunisia.

Unable to attend: Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Sent reports: Greece, Iran and Israel.

1.- Bibliographical documentation, commissioned to G. Donno.

2.- A list of reference cultivars to serve as controls in the different national collections: C. Grasselly and P. Crossa-Raynaud.

The observation methods and recording data would be standardised by a working group formed by A.J. Felipe, C. Grasselly, A. Jouani, F. Monastra and D. Stylianides.

The definition of the blooming stages was one of the first accomplishments of this line of work (Felipe, III GREMPA Colloquium).



3.- A list of suitable parents for their exceptional traits was drawn up by A.J. Felipe. It was already mentioned that the self-compatible cultivars would be included in this list.

4.- Mutual information on the crosses made by the different breeding programmes, drawing up a list by the INRA-Bordeaux.

5.- Collection and maintenance of a botanical collection of the subgenus *Amygdalus* including the species considered relevant by a group formed by A.J. Felipe, C. Grasselly and V. Grigorian.

6.- Studying the possibilities of almond growing without grafting directly from seed, by P. Crossa-Raynaud and R. Bernhard.

7.- Cooperation in rootstock study and selection, considering the different possibilities of using seedling almonds (INRAT-Ariana of Tunisia or INIA-Badajoz of Spain), almond x peach and peach x plum hybrids (INRA-Bordeaux, France), several plum types (INIA-Zaragoza of Spain).

8.- Establishing a common reservoir of almond cultivars, suggesting the station of Bari.

Review of more researchers possibly interested in almond from Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Turkey, Syria, Cyprus...

II Colloquium in Montpellier in September 1975

# Botanical expedition Grasselly-Felipe in Afghanistan



CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DES HAUTES ETUDES D'AGRONOMIE MEDITERRANEENNES

C.I.H.E.A.M

2<sup>e</sup> COLLOQUE

DU

GROUPE DE RECHERCHE ET D'ETUDE  
MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'AMANDIER.

MONTPELLIER - NIMES  
8-11 SEPTEMBRE 1975

*Documento uif*

Algeria 2	Romania 1
Bulgaria 1	Spain 7
France 5	Tunisia 1
Iran 1	Turkey 3
Italy 2	Yugoslavia 1
United States 1	





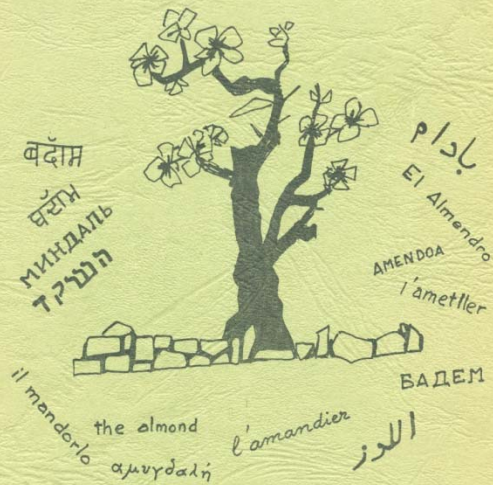
Establishment of a list of 14 reference cultivars  
by C. Grasselly and P. Crossa-Raynaud

The way of recording blooming time  
(phenological stages by A.H. Felipe, III  
Colloquium)

The way to distinguish shell hardness

Cultivar characterisation (Almond descriptors by  
R. Gülcan, IV Colloquium, and then IBPGR  
1981, revised 1984)

3<sup>e</sup> COLLOQUE  
DU  
GROUPE DE RECHERCHE ET D'ETUDE  
MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'AMANDIER.  
1977.



ENTRE INTERNATIONAL DES HAUTES ETUDES D'AGRONOMIE MEDITERRANEENNES  
C.I.H.E.A.M

# III Colloquium Bari (Italy) 3-7 October 1977



# Defined by Vargas in Murcia as the Colloquium of self-compatibility

. 150 .

CONTRIBUTO ALLA CONOSCENZA DELLE CULTIVAR DI MANDORLO  
( F.AMYGDALUS BATSCH ) DELLA PUGLIA:

2) Un quadriennio di ricerche sull'autocompatibilità<sup>(1)</sup>

ANGELO GODINI

. 181 .

HERITABILITY OF SELF-COMPATIBILITY IN ALMOND

R.Socias ; A. Felipe  
INIA - CRIDA 03  
ZARAGOZA - SPAIN

The number of participants and contributions increased significantly

This Colloquium may be considered as the consolidation of GREMPA

Success of the three following Colloquia:

- Izmir (Turkey) in 1980
- Sfax (Tunisia) in 1982
- Thessaloniki (Greece) in 1985

Success by GREMPA in the 1980s: free association of researchers

Enough for their communication: not necessary publishing in journals of impact

Attracted the interest of other organisms

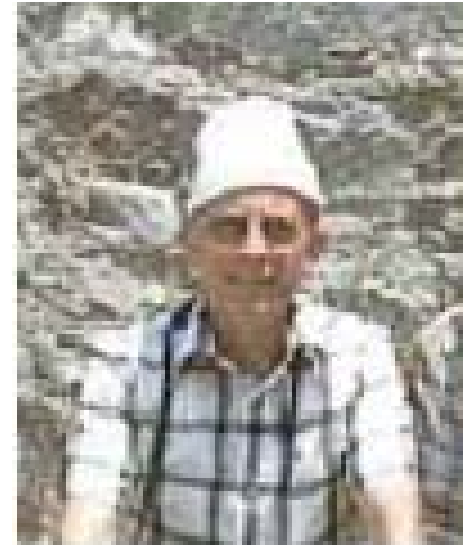
# VII Colloquium

Tarragona, 17-19 June 1987

- Introduction of pistachio
- AGRIMED (tensions with G. Rossetto)
- Crossa-Raynaud, unilateral coordinator, retired

# VIII Colloquium

Nîmes, 26-27 June 1990



- Retirement of Charles Grasselly
- FAO Network on Nuts

Yalova (Turkey) on June 19-22, unaware to most of the GREMPA members, whereas some had assigned themselves a prominent position in the network

## **NETWORK COORDINATOR**

The Network Coordinator (NC) is chosen by all the Network members for a renewable period of four years and will have the following tasks:

## **LIAISON OFFICERS**

One of the participants in each sub-network, chosen by common agreement, will act as the liaison officer (LO) for the particular sub-network, within the limits of their concern, for a renewable period of four years. Each LO will be expected to promote research activities...

Next colloquia organised by the FAO Network.



# X Colloquium

Meknès, 14-17 October 1996

- Scale of blooming
- Dependence of GREMPA from FAO network

Discussion and different opinions of F.J. Vargas, I. Batlle, E. Germain and F. Monastra

# Symbols of GREMPA

- Flag
- Anthem
- Investiture of knights

# Homage

- Jacques Souty
- Antonio J. Felipe
- Charles Grasselly
- Francesco Monastra

... whose enthusiasm and spirit we have not managed to maintain



Thanks to the IAMZ  
and its librarians

